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## America's Garden of Eden Browning in Drought

By RICHARD H. GROWALD  
United Press International Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Up in the Sierra Mountains the Southern Pacific Railroad agent at Norden, population 112, kicked a bush.

"Look, you can see rocks. You can see shrub. Good God, you can see grass. You can drive your car anywhere you want to. It's sickening," H.L. Hanns said.

"California gets its water from whatever snow falls up here. There's only 14 inches of snow on the ground here now; usually, there's 200 to 300 inches piled up," agent Hanns said. "It's obscene. It's a disaster drought."

"It's the worst drought in recorded California history," said Ronald B. Robie, director of the state Department of Water Resources, seated in his 11th-floor Sacramento office overlooking a gray fog hiding parched earth.

This American Garden of Eden is turning from green to brown. Water rationing has begun. This is Year 2 of the Great Drought. Weather forecasters predict Year 3 coming.

"The outlook is bleak," Director Robie said. On the lapel of his charcoal gray suit he wore one of the blue and white "Save Water" pins his department had made and which his secretary offers visitors from a

quart-sized cognac snifter on her desk.

The California Cattlemen's Association predicts a \$1.5 billion loss in livestock in an industry that earned \$3.1 billion last year. The California Farm Bureau's Jack King said state farmers, who produce some 25 per cent of America's table food, may lose as much as \$2 billion to a drought that is savaging such crops as rice, cotton, alfalfa and sugar beets.

"We're rationed to 46 gallons of water a person a day," said Mrs. Clark Biggs, a Marin County housewife. "And it takes five gallons to flush the toilet just once."

In San Francisco, at the meeting of Market and Powell streets, where the green cable cars are pushed around to lurch back up Nob Hill, hatless passengers in sports clothes read the "EAST AND MIDWEST PARALYZED" headline atop a newspaper. They read about Buffalo, N.Y., getting the snow that Norden did not. They nod.

It is cardinal in the Californian's creed that the smart came West. The easterner is to be pitied. In the lobby of the St. Francis Hotel — different attendants in black tail coats on red carpets inside and chirpy prostitutes on the sidewalk outside — a San Francisco couple parts from an

eastern visitor after showing him the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, Colt Tower, empty Alcatraz and all that.

"And now you're going back to all that snow and ice and yuck," the San Francisco lady said. She smiles; the visitor's parole from Hell is over. "Gosh, I wish I could stay another week, two weeks. I wish I could stay forever," he said. "The San Franciscans were not surprised; they took it as their due; even Nikita S. Khrushchev preferred this coast to that other place. But Mother Nature is more impartial."

Turn to DROUGHT, A15

## 65° Home A Feature Of Future

(c) New York Times

WASHINGTON — John F. O'Leary, the federal energy administrator, told the American people yesterday the Carter administration's energy policy would call for higher prices, less comfort at home and "some way to take some of the fat out of the driving habits in this country."

"The 65-degree home will become a feature of the future," he said.

O'Leary left open the possibility of an increase in the federal gasoline tax, now 4 cents a gallon. He said increases in gasoline prices in the last three years had slowed consumption, a point disputed by politicians opposed to a higher tax.

In a television interview on ABC's "Issues and Answers" program, along with Richard L. Dunham, chairman of the Federal Power Commission, O'Leary ruled out gasoline rationing "unless we are faced with a massive interruption of supply."

O'Leary said industrial use of gas particularly as a boiler fuel, should be phased out within 10 years. Asked if he was talking about a tax on natural gas at the well and an additional tax on the use of gas as a boiler fuel, O'Leary replied: "We may well have to tax them." He also said there was the possibility of direct federal orders to compel switching to coal or electricity.

O'Leary endorsed warmly the request of the Senate Budget Committee for federal emergency payments of up to \$250 to help needy families pay fuel bills swollen by the winter's unusual cold temperatures. The White House has been studying this idea for two or three weeks, saying that President Carter wants to help the needy with their fuel bills but is not sure about the right way to do it.

Bert Lance, the budget director, refused on NBC's "Meet the Press," to say how large such a winter relief program might be.

"I can't give you any dollar amount because again we don't have any real measurement of the effect of the severe winter on the economy of this country," Lance said. This remark was understood to mean that the administration was reluctant to ask Congress for a large emergency appropriation — some analysts have talked of \$200 million.

O'Leary stressed that Carter's campaign commitment to the deregulation of natural gas applied only to gas newly-committed to interstate sales, not to gas already flowing. Carter made this distinction in his October letters to the governors of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, the principal gas-producing states.

O'Leary sought to embellish it, evidently to reassure the consuming states that the administration contemplated a gradual rise in gas prices by relatively small amounts, not a sudden exponential jump.

"We do want to keep low-cost gas (available) to householders," he said, while driving up the price — perhaps by a tax — "to this industrial user who can switch."

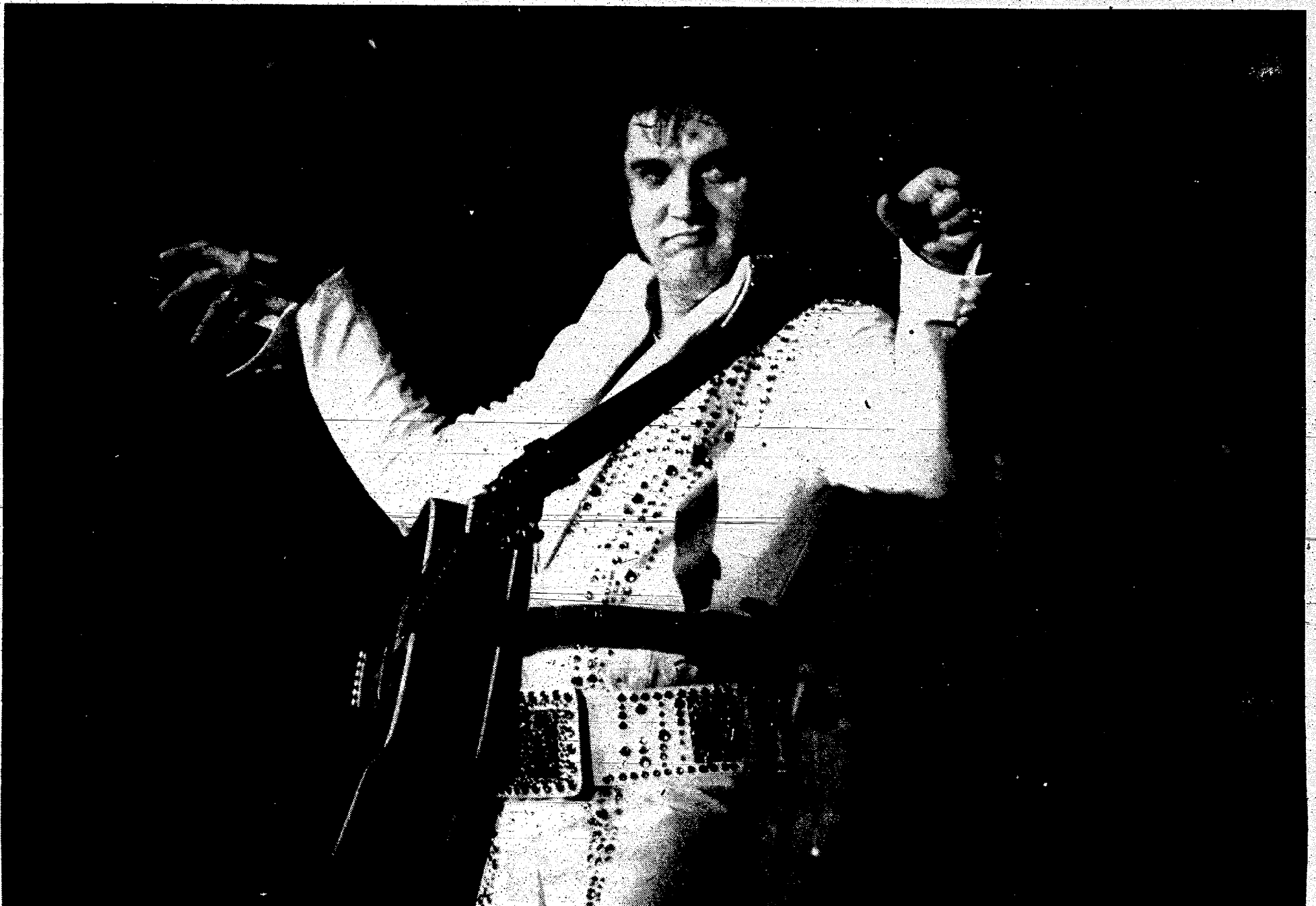
Although O'Leary did not mention it, administration energy planners also are known to be thinking of steps to keep the price of gas consumed in the state which produces it — so-called intrastate gas — from soaring if and when Congress should remove the ceiling on what interstate pipelines may pay producers for new gas. A buyers' price war could result.

There has been informal discussion of putting a temporary ceiling on all gas prices, a ceiling that might be ended in stages. However, extension of federal price controls to intrastate sales would meet strong resistance in Congress from the producing states, on the ground that those states can protect their own consumers if they wish to.

Dunham, the holdover Republican chairman of the power commission, took a restrained view of the proposition that producers have been withholding gas speculatively, waiting for higher prices. Gas is not being produced for various reasons, he said — absence of a pipeline, insufficient volume, unfavorable geology, and speculation.

In a more disapproving vein, O'Leary said: "Now, that is going on. There is no question about it and we would be as a nation much better off if we had that gas coming into the lines now."

Turn to ENERGY, A15



Staff Photos by Akira SUWA

Elvis Presley Thrills Crowd at the West Palm Beach Concert Last Night

## Trumpets Herald Arrival of 'King'



Crowd Greets Elvis Outside Sheraton Inn on Way to Concert

Related Stories, C1

By BUD NEWMAN

Post Staff Writer

Trumpets blared the "Theme from 2001," heartbeats quickened, people stood, women screamed, flash cubes exploded in a strobe light effect, and suddenly in one magical instant, he was there in the flesh.

Elvis Presley, decked out in a white, sparkling jump suit, showed a frenzied audience at the West Palm Beach Auditorium last night, why they call him The King. In an hour-long show, Elvis ran through all or part of two dozen songs mixing his classic early records from the 1950s and 1960s with newer material, all the time teasing and toying with his audience so that the excitement level rarely dropped.

The acoustic guitar that became his trademark two decades ago appeared on only the opening number, "C.C. Ryder," but his swiveling hips and twitching legs continued to stimulate the audience.

Every time he moved his body, the auditorium exploded with the noise of screaming women but the excitement climaxed as Elvis began to toss blue and white scarves to the people closest to the stage.

Fans from all over the auditorium began to rush to the stage in hopes of getting a scarf but West Palm Beach policemen and Elvis' security personnel did their best to keep order.

Looking overweight, despite the wide belt around his middle, Elvis showed his voice was in far better shape than his body, but only on a few of the 24 tunes.

He rarely sang more than a few bars of his best known songs, like "Don't Be Cruel," "Hound Dog," "All Shook Up," and "Jail House Rock."

But the audience didn't seem to care. Whatever he did was greeted with screams and applause.

In between songs, Elvis occasionally joked with his audience, first asking, "Where are we?" and later telling them, "My name is Freddy Fender."

Among the biggest reactions of the night from the

Turn to ELVIS, A15



'The reason I'm here as queen is because of the love and affection of these kids.'

— Rita Reutter

## She's Their Queen for a Day

ORLANDO (UPI) — Mrs. Rita Reutter, a 58-year-old widow with 14 grandchildren, has been crowned homecoming queen of Florida Technical University — defeating 12 "cutie pie" candidates for the honor.

"It proves just because you're 58 years old, you don't have to jump in a box," said Mrs. Reutter after her victory Saturday night.

She had campaigned on the slogan, "You can have a cutie pie anytime. Let's have something different."

The student body agreed with her, to the surprise of the 12 other candidates.

"The reason I'm here as queen is because of the love and affection of these kids," she said.

More than 800 FTU students cast their ballots in the election last week. Results were announced at halftime in a basketball game Saturday night and it was the first time Mrs. Reutter — who slightly resembles former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir — had been to a basketball game. Afterwards she and her 24-year old

escort, Lee Constantine, a former student body president, went to the student dance.

"I can't dance for beans, but I sure can keep time," she advised her youthful partner.

A graduate student in guidance counseling, Mrs. Reutter works during the day as a work-study student in the university library and attends classes at night.

She said news of her campaign brought a flow of mail from senior citizens across the country, applauding her effort.

## Inside Today

### Weather

Reappearance of snow and the return of low temperatures in northern areas cancel the immediate threat of floods as a thaw fails to materialize.

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### Quebec

Economic planners of Quebec, predicting a separation from Canada, look for closer economic ties with the United States and a bigger role for labor in the region's industry.

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